

Glenda Wiles

From: Bruce and Pat [gopherranch@wildblue.net]
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2008 6:16 AM
To: Glenda Wiles
Subject: Proposal to mine rip rap in the Lost Horse Quarry

As you are aware, I've followed the Lost Horse Quarry issue since it surfaced nearly a year ago. I've spent numerous hours analyzing the county road department's two previous proposals for mining in the Quarry and found them grossly incomplete. Under further scrutiny they proved to be financial fiascos as well.

The Road department's current proposal to mine 1000 cubic yards of rip rap is similarly deficient. There is no current price for purchasing the material commercially. From the research I've done, WGM's estimate of \$72,000.00 is much higher than the product would likely cost. Additionally, the proposal contains no information on the labor needed to sort and extract the material out of the pit. At the last meeting I attended there was talk of trading pit material for rip rap from a private party. Nothing in the current proposal accounts for that.

I have emphasized several times and will emphasize again: at this time I do not know whether it makes financial sense for the county to mine 1000 cubic yards of material from the pit. Neither do you. You have not been provided with enough information to make that decision. As elected officials, one of your primary jobs is to ensure that my tax dollars are used as efficiently as possible. Without a complete budget for this project, along with an estimate for purchasing the material commercially, you cannot make a responsible decision.

If you have information you are using to make this decision that you have not provided to the public you must do so. Under the Montana Constitution I have a right to know and participate in government decisions. Citizens cannot do that without being completely informed.

Sincerely,

Pat Tucker
PO Box 172
Hamilton, MT 59840
363-7291

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JUL 15 2008

Ravalli County Commissioner

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